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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 24 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 24 November 1997 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The letter concerns the escalation of tension by the United States of America through its military build-up in the Gulf area and its sending of the U-2 aircraft to carry out espionage activities and engage in acts of provocation.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Identical letters dated 24 November 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

At a time when the Security Council is discussing ways to ensure a balance in the structure and mechanisms of the United Nations Special Commission that will guarantee the equitable participation of all parties concerned and when intensive efforts are being made, particularly by the Russian Federation as represented by President Boris Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, to extinguish the flames which have been and continue to be fanned by the United States of America, that country, rather than demonstrating the wisdom of one who has learned a genuine and useful lesson, has behaved more foolishly than wisely. It has built up its military presence in the Arab Gulf area and sent the U-2 aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace and carry out not only espionage activities, but also acts of provocation, in order to escalate tension and hostility to the point where the situation becomes explosive.

We should like to draw your attention to the dangers of these United States actions and should be grateful if you would inform the members of the Security Council of the contents of this letter.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq